

From the second edition (1989):

auscultation

(ɔːskʌlˈteɪʃən) [ad. L. *auscultātiōn-em*, f. *auscultāt-*: see prec. and -ATION.]

1. The action of listening or hearkening.

1634 HICKES *Lucian* (T.) You shall hear what deserves attentive auscultation. **1836** H. TAYLOR *Statesman* xxxi. 239 He who can listen with real attention to every thing that is said to him, has a great gift of auscultation. **1842** MRS. BROWNING *Grk. Chr. Poets* (1863) 64 The suggestive name of *acroases*—auscultations, things intended to be heard.

2. Med. The action of listening, with ear or stethoscope, to the sound of the movement of heart, lungs, or other organs, in order to judge their condition of health or disease.

1833 J. FORBES *Cycl. Pract. Med.* I. 234 The whole doctrine of auscultation as a means of diagnosis. **1872** THOMAS *Dis. Wom.* 767 Auscultation reveals a loud basic systolic cardiac murmur.

Oxford English Dictionary, second edition (1989).
© Oxford University Press 1989.